



The second **G-20 Leaders' Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy** is scheduled to take place on April 2, 2009. It follows the first G-20 Leaders Summit, that took place in Washington D.C. on November 14-15, 2008.

[G20 Main Website](#)

[London Summit Website](#)

[G20: the key issues](#) *BBC News*

Understanding the G-20 Economic Stimulus Plans by Eswar Prasad and Isaac Sorkin. *The Brookings Institution*. March 2009.

The global economic crisis continues to demand urgent policy responses as growth rates plunge in all of the major advanced and emerging economies. To stem the tide of economic woes and restore economic growth, numerous countries have implemented fiscal stimulus plans. The G-20 countries, in particular, pledged in November 2008 to aggressively use fiscal measures to reinvigorate their economies. **[ARTICLE 193](#)**

See also:

[Assessing the G-20 Stimulus Plans: A Deeper Look](#)
[The London Summit: Can the G-20 Fix the Financial Crisis?](#)

G-20 Policy Priorities. Backgrounder by Lee Hudson Teslik. *CFR*. March 13, 2009.

Leaders from the **[Group of 20 \(G-20\)](#)** countries are to meet in London on April 2 to discuss how to respond to the global economic crisis. The summit, which follows G-20 meetings in late 2008, has inspired heady expectations from policymakers and market watchers. **[ARTICLE 194](#)**

Talking-shop-on-Thames. *The Economist*. March 14, 2009.

Transatlantic tensions suggest that there will be no grand bargain at next month's [G-20] grand summit.

See also: [The Better Part of Valour](#)

[ARTICLE 195](#)

The G-20 London Summit 2009: Recommendations for Global Policy Coordination. *The Brookings Institute*

Leaders of the Group of 20 (G-20), representing 85 percent of the global economy's output, face a long list of agenda items when they gather on April 2 in London for their second summit. As the world combats a "great recession," the leaders must address how to help stabilize financial markets and re-start economic growth, reform the global financial system, and aid developing and emerging economies. **[ARTICLE 196](#)**

Individual articles available [here](#)

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International Relations

Inside the Ivory Tower by Daniel Maliniak et al. *Foreign Policy*. March/April 2009.

This third exclusive survey of international relations professors reveals they're worried about climate change, Russia's rise, and their own irrelevance. Article ranks the top schools for international relations.[ARTICLE 197](#)

How Development Leads to Democracy by R. Inglehart and C. Welzel. *Foreign Affairs*. March/April 2009.

Democratic institutions tend to emerge only when certain social and cultural conditions exist. But economic development and modernization push those conditions in the right direction and make democracy increasingly likely. [ARTICLE 198](#)

Country Analysis Brief: Mexico. *Energy Information Administration*. March 2009.

In 2008, Mexico was the 7th largest oil producer in the world, and the 3rd largest in the Western Hemisphere. State-owned Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) holds a monopoly on oil production in the country and is one of the largest oil companies in the world. However, oil production in the country has begun to decrease, as production at the giant Cantarell field declines. While the relative importance of the industry to the Mexican economy has declined, the oil sector still generates over 15% of the country's export earnings. [ARTICLE 199](#)

Why Washington Worries by Fareed Zakaria. *Newsweek*. March 23, 2009.

Obama has made striking moves to fix U.S. foreign policy—and that has set off a chorus of criticism.

Politics/Government

The Europe Syndrome and the Challenge to American Exceptionalism by Charles Murray. *American Enterprise Institute*. March 16, 2009.

The author sees President Obama and his leading intellectuals as the American equivalent of Europe's social democrats. The report discusses pros and cons of the European way and argues that "America's elite must once again fall in love with what makes America different." [ARTICLE 200](#)

A New Charter for American Cities: 10 Rights to Restrain Government and Protect Freedom. *Goldwater Institute*. March 11, 2009.

There are almost 90,000 local governments in America, with an average of one new local government born each day. Few are models of limited government restrained by a system of checks and balances. Often they are unaccountable, and special interest-driven, according to the study.

ARTICLE 201

Government Consumption Volatility and the Size of Nations by David Furceri et al. *OECD*. March 19, 2009.

The paper analyzes the relation between the volatility of government consumption and country size, using a sample of 160 countries from 1960 to 2000.

ARTICLE 202

Business & Finance

Bank Nationalization: What is it? Should we do it? by Douglas J. Elliott. *Brookings Institution*. February 25, 2009.

The paper explains the various meanings and purposes of “nationalization,” lays out a framework for evaluating the necessity and usefulness of bank nationalization, reviews the most critical implementation issues that would arise, and provides some recommendations.

ARTICLE 203

Federal Financial Assistance: Preliminary Observations on Assistance Provided to AIG by Orice M. Williams. *U.S. Government Accountability Office*. March 18, 2009.

The statement provides preliminary findings on (1) the goals and monitoring of federal assistance to American International Group (AIG) and challenges to AIG’s repayment of the assistance; and (2) the potential effects of the federal assistance on the U.S. commercial property/casualty insurance market.

ARTICLE 204

Innovation in Small Business: Drivers of Change and Value Use by C.J. Isom and David R. Jarczyk. *Office of Advocacy, Small Business Administration*. March 2009.

This paper investigates various drivers of innovation within small businesses, as well as the role that innovation plays in creating value in small businesses. The analysis suggests that additions in employee headcount increase innovation while growth in sales does not increase innovation. The analysis also finds that increases in research and development expenditures enhance small business value in certain industries, but not uniformly and not in all the industries investigated.

ARTICLE 205

Swimming Against the Tide: How Developing Countries are Coping with the Global Crisis. *World Bank*. March 8, 2009.

Developing countries face a financing shortfall of \$270-700 billion this year, as private sector creditors shun emerging markets, and only 25% of the most vulnerable countries have the resources to prevent a rise in poverty, the World Bank said. The international financial institutions cannot by themselves currently cover the shortfall, which includes public and private debt and trade deficits, for these 129 countries. A solution will require governments, multilateral institutions, and the private sector.

ARTICLE 206

The Financial Crisis: Impact on and Response by the European Union. *CRS*. March 9, 2009.

Within the U. S., Congress has appropriated funds to help recapitalize financial institutions, and adopted several economic stimulus measures. Unlike the U.S., however, where the federal government can legislate policies that are consistent across all 50 States, the EU process gives each member a great deal of discretion to decide how they will regulate and supervise financial markets within their borders. The limits of this system may well be tested as the EU and others search for a regulatory framework that spans a broad number of national markets.

ARTICLE 207

The Consumer and Business Lending Initiative. U.S. Department of Treasury. March 3, 2009.

The Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (TALF), a component of the Consumer and Business Lending Initiative (CBLI) is launched. The TALF is designed to catalyze the securitization markets by providing financing to investors to support their purchases of certain AAA-rated asset-backed securities (ABS). The TALF will assist lenders in meeting the borrowing needs of consumers and small businesses, helping to stimulate the broader economy.

ARTICLE 208

AIG, Congress, Geithner Target of Bonus Backlash; No Consensus on Best Way to Recover Bonus Money by Jeffrey M. Jones. *Gallup Poll*. March 24, 2009

For the most part, the central players in the AIG bonus controversy have come out looking badly. A majority of Americans are dissatisfied with the way AIG management, Congress, and Treasury Secretary Geithner have handled the matter. Only President Obama gets a more positive than negative evaluation. [**ARTICLE 209**](#)

AIG Employee Contracts. *House Committee on Financial Services*. March 18, 2009.

House Committee on Financial Services puts up AIG Financial Group's 2008 Employee Retention Plan, Confirmation and Acknowledgement, and Schedule to the Master Agreement contracts. [**ARTICLE 210**](#)

The Housing Recession and the Case for a Third Stimulus by Dean Baker. *Center for Economic and Policy Research*. March 2009.

The paper makes the case for a third stimulus package in the face of economic indicators. Specifically, the report calls for an employer tax-credit for extending health care coverage and another per worker employer tax credit for increasing paid time off from work. The author also makes the case for a housing policy centered on the stabilization of prices in non-bubble and deflated markets rather than applying the same efforts on markets that remain at bubble inflated levels. [**ARTICLE 211**](#)

Ongoing Government Assistance for American International Group (AIG) by Baird Webel. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. March 16, 2009.

In the beginning of 2008, American International Group (AIG) was one of the world's largest insurers, generally considered to be financially sound with an AA credit rating. By the end of the year, it had undergone a near bankruptcy and had been forced to seek up to \$173.4 billion in financial assistance from the U.S. government. It is not clear whether the ongoing government involvement in AIG might strengthen or weaken AIG's core insurance business. [**ARTICLE 212**](#)

Trends in 401(K) Plans. *American Benefits Council*. Web posted March 20, 2009.

According to the survey, more than nine out of ten U.S. companies offer an employee 401(k) plan. In addition, despite the widely reported drop in account balances, two-thirds (66 percent) of organizations indicated that at least 70 percent of eligible employees participated in those 401(k) plans in 2008. [**ARTICLE 213**](#)

The Transformation of U.S. Livestock Agriculture: Scale, Efficiency, and Risks by James M. MacDonald and William D. McBride. *U.S. Department of Agriculture*. Web posted March 1, 2009.

U.S. livestock production has shifted to much larger and more specialized farms, and the various stages of input provision, farm production, and processing are now much more tightly coordinated through formal contracts and shared ownership of assets. Important financial advantages have driven these structural changes, which in turn have boosted productivity growth in the livestock sector. [**ARTICLE 214**](#)

Green Shoots: No Matter How Bad Things Get, People Still Need to Eat. *The Economist*. March 19, 2009.

AT a time when much of the global economy is falling apart and demand both for consumer goods and the firms that make and finance them is collapsing, the notoriously cyclical world of agriculture is holding up remarkably well. [**ARTICLE 215**](#)

Economy / Trade

WTO sees 9% global trade decline in 2009 as recession strikes. *WTO*. March 23, 2009

The collapse in global demand brought on by the biggest economic downturn in decades will drive exports down by roughly 9% in volume terms in 2009, the biggest such contraction since the Second World War, WTO economists forecast today (25 March 2009). [**ARTICLE 216**](#)

Towards Harmonized Bilateral Trade Data for Inter-Country Input-Output Analyses: Statistical Issues. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. March 2, 2009.

The paper discusses the challenges faced when attempting to construct appropriate bilateral trade matrices using annual data collected by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and United Nations, as well as national sources. [**ARTICLE 217**](#)

Financial Stimulus Plans: Recent Developments in Selected Countries. Law Library of Congress. February 2009.

Since the onslaught of the global financial and economic crisis last year, many countries have unveiled various stimulus packages to bolster their weakening economies and fight the effects of a global slowdown. Although the primary focus of these various stimulus packages in different nations is to keep their own economies on track, it is difficult to insulate any economy from a global downturn. [ARTICLE 218](#)

Trade Profiles 2008. *World Trade Organization*. Web posted on February 27, 2009.

The Profiles gives quick references on national and trade statistics of World Trade Organization (WTO) members and countries which are in the process of negotiating WTO membership. It combines information on trade flows and trade policy measures of members, WTO observers and other selected economies. [ARTICLE 219](#)

Foreclosure Crisis: Working Toward a Solution. *Cong. Oversight Panel, U.S. Senate*. March 2009.

To help individual families and to stabilize the economy, Congress has pressed Treasury to devise a plan to deal with foreclosures. The Panel hopes that by identifying the current impediments to sensible modifications that can move toward effective mechanisms to halt wealth-destroying foreclosures and put the American family and the American economy back on a sound footing. [ARTICLE 220](#)

Fight the Fire, then Redesign the Firehouse by Stewart M. Patrick. *CFR*. March 13, 2009.

When G-20 leaders convene in London on April 2, they will confront the most parlous global economic situation in seven decades. People and markets everywhere will be looking for tangible signals that the world's leaders are up to the challenge of crafting an effective global response. The expectations, risks, and stakes are enormous. If the summit fails to restore confidence, we may see a replay of the 1933 London conference that prolonged and deepened the Great Depression. [ARTICLE 221](#)

Financial Crisis and Public Policy: Policy Analysis by Jagadeesh Gokhale. *Cato Institute*. March 23, 2009.

This analysis explains the antecedents of the current global financial crisis and critically examines the reasoning behind the U.S. Treas. and Fed. Reserve's actions to prop up the financial sector. It argues that recovery from the financial crisis is likely to be slow with or without the government's bailout actions. [ARTICLE 222](#)

East Asia / Pacific

The North Korean Paradox and the Subversive Truth by Andrei Lankov. *American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research*. March 3, 2009.

Lankov says North Korea must be transformed from within. Neither sanctions nor direct engagement will work. What is needed is an effort to increase contacts between North Korea and the outside world through cultural and educational exchanges and through economic cooperation that exposes North Koreans to South Koreans and their vastly better way of life. [ARTICLE 223](#)

Reforming the Tax System in Korea to Promote Economic Growth and Cope with Rapid Population Ageing by Randall S. Jones. *OECD*. Web posted February 24, 2009.

Korea has one of the lowest tax burdens in the OECD area, reflecting its small public sector. However, rapid population ageing will put upward pressure on government spending. The challenge is to meet the long-run need for greater expenditures and tax revenue while sustaining strong economic growth. A pro growth tax reform implies relying primarily on consumption taxes for additional revenue. [ARTICLE 224](#)

ASEAN: the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Backgrounder by Julie Ginsberg. *Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)*. February 25, 2009.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations ([ASEAN](#)) is an alliance promoting economic and political cooperation by fostering dialogue among its ten members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The experts say the group may pursue a bigger role in the region to help its members cope with the global financial crisis. As the downturn shifts the geopolitics of the region, ASEAN and the United States may look to tighten their economic and security ties to prevent the rise of a hegemon in Southeast Asia. [ARTICLE 225](#)

How Obama can get South Asia Right by C. Raja Mohan. *The Washington Quarterly*. April 2009.

Obama's promised new framework for South Asia has several negative consequences for the region in general and U.S. policy in particular. What sort of strategic and diplomatic framework can be developed that will bring about an integrated approach to the region and also harmonize Indian and U.S. interests? [**ARTICLE 226**](#)

Social Security Programs Throughout the World: Asia and the Pacific, 2008. *Social Security Administration*. March 2009.

The study provides a cross-national comparison of the social security systems in 48 countries in Asia and the Pacific. It summarizes the five main social insurance programs in those countries: old-age, disability, and survivors; sickness and maternity; work injury; unemployment; and family allowances. [**ARTICLE 227**](#)

Security / Defense

The Axis of Upheaval by Niall Ferguson. *Foreign Policy*. March/April 2009.

Forget Iran, Iraq, and North Korea—Bush's "Axis of Evil." As economic calamity meets political and social turmoil, the world's worst problems may come from countries like Somalia, Russia, and Mexico. And they're just the beginning. [**ARTICLE 229**](#)

[**The Most Dangerous Place in the World**](#)(Somalia) [**Reversal of Fortune**](#)(Russia) [**State of War**](#)(Mexico)

Developing a Process to Build Partner Capacity for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction. *RAND Corporation*. Web posted March 10, 2009.

The report summarizes a project that examines how the United States can better coordinate its approach to enhance partners' border security, detection, and interdiction capacity to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. [**ARTICLE 230**](#)

Global Security Engagement: a New Model for Cooperative Threat Reduction. *National Research Council*. March 2009.

The report urges the White House to lead the reformulation of U.S. Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) programs to focus on combating international terrorism and other current threats. The government's first CTR programs were created in 1991 to eliminate the former Soviet Union's nuclear, chemical, and other weapons and prevent their proliferation. Originally designed to deal with immediate post-Cold War challenges, the programs must be expanded to other regions and fundamentally redesigned as an active tool of foreign policy that can address contemporary threats from groups that are agile, networked, and adaptable. [**ARTICLE 231**](#)

Protecting What Matters: the 6th Annual Global Security Survey. *Deloitte*. March 10, 2009.

People are both an organization's greatest asset as well as its weakest link. But security vigilance is even more important in hard economic times, when the increased stress levels can lead people to behave in atypical ways. The top three information security priorities of financial institutions are: security regulatory compliance, data protection and information leakage, and access and identity management. [**ARTICLE 232**](#)

North Korean Ballistic Missile Threat to the United States by Steven A. Hildreth. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress*. February 24, 2009.

The report briefly reviews North Korea's ballistic missile program. [**ARTICLE 233**](#)

The Capabilities That Medium-Armored Forces Bring to the Full Spectrum of Operations by David E. Johnson et al. *RAND Corporation*. March 2009.

The study assesses the performance of medium-armored forces in 13 past conflicts, to better understand their unique capabilities and inform decisions about the Future Force. [**ARTICLE 234**](#)

Middle East

Mapping Peace Between Syria and Israel by Frederic C. Hof. *U.S. Institute of Peace*. March 2009.

Fred Hof lays out a roadmap for how to resolve the issues separating Syria and Israel over the Golan Heights plateau and small tracts in the Jordan River Valley. Hof's study focuses on creative ways and means to reconcile Syria's boundary demand with legitimate Israeli concerns. [ARTICLE 235](#)

Reconstructing Gaza—Lessons from Lebanon by Alistair Harris. *U.S. Institute of Peace*. Mar. 2009.

As the international community continues to debate humanitarian assistance to Gaza, the author argues that donors should avoid the temptation to adopt a mechanistic, one size fits all solution. "In the rush to rebuild what was destroyed, it should be remembered," writes Harris, "that the major catalysts for this conflict were political and economic. As such, the reconstruction effort must ensure that viable employment initiatives form part of the post-conflict stabilization plan. This was very much a man-made humanitarian disaster". [ARTICLE 236](#)

Free at Last? The Arab World in the 21st Century by Bernard Lewis. *Foreign Affairs*. Mar/Apr 2009

The future of the Arab world will depend on the outcome of a battle between those advocating Islamic theocracy and those seeking to establish liberal democracy. [ARTICLE 237](#)

Learning to Live with Radical Islam by Fareed Zakaria. *Newsweek*. March 9, 2009.

We don't have to accept the stoning of criminals. But it's time to stop treating all Islamists as potential terrorists. [ARTICLE 238](#)

Stronger Women Stronger Nations: 2009 Afghanistan report. *Women for Women International*. 2009.

The report shows how, in peace and during war, women are the glue that can hold societies together. Therefore, there can be no talk about post-war development, democracy, and freedom without considering women's place and participation. [ARTICLE 239](#)

Iran: Poverty and Inequality Since the Revolution by Djavad Salehi-Isfahani. The Brookings Institution. January 29, 2009.

Data from the Statistical Center of Iran offer evidence of how inequality has changed in terms of household expenditures, education attainment, and access to health and basic services. The picture that emerges is a mixed one: success in improving the standard of living and the quality of life for the poor, and failure in improving the overall distribution of income. [ARTICLE 240](#)

Resolving the Crisis Over Constitutional Interpretation in Afghanistan by John Dempsey and J. Alexander Their. *U.S. Institute of Peace*. March 2009.

According to the authors, the current political crisis over elections in Afghanistan stems, in part, from a fundamental gap in Afghanistan's legal and political system. Without a clear path to settling constitutional disagreements, the system becomes deadlocked as disputes arise, exacerbating tensions between Afghanistan's fragile institutions and factionalized political elite. Filling this gap in Afghanistan's constitutional system is of paramount importance to stabilizing the political system. [ARTICLE 241](#)

Spoiling Inside and Out: Internal Political Contestation and the Middle East Peace Process by Wendy Pearlman. *International Security*. Winter 2008/09

Of the 38 peace accords signed between 1988 and 1998, 31 failed to last more than three years. Contributing to their failure was the behavior of so-called spoilers: those who use violence or other means to undermine negotiations in the expectation that a settlement will threaten their power or interests. [ARTICLE 242](#)

Democracy May be the Best Ally Against Pakistan's Extremists by Paula R. Newberg. *YaleGlobal*. 20 March 2009

The international community must respect that democratic decisions from Afghanistan and Pakistan may diverge. [ARTICLE 243](#)

Talking with Insurgents: A Guide for the Perplexed by Daniel Byman. *Washington Quarterly*. April 2009.

Talking with insurgents is often a necessary first step toward defeating them or reaching an acceptable compromise. These talks must often be done even as insurgents shoot at U.S. soldiers, and they in turn, shoot at them.

[ARTICLE 244](#)

Toward Reconciliation in Afghanistan by Michael O'Hanlon. *Washington Quarterly*. April 2009

How can we make sense of where the U.S. is in Afghanistan today? A poor country, wracked by 30 years of civil war, finds itself at the mercy of insurgents, terrorists, and narco-traffickers. NATO's economy-of-force operation there has attempted to help build a nation with very few resources. Yet, overall levels of violence remain relatively modest by comparison with other violent lands.

[ARTICLE 245](#)

Saudi-Iranian Relations Since the Fall of Saddam: Rivalry, Cooperation, and Implications for U.S. Policy by Frederic Wehrey et al. RAND Corporation. March 2009.

The often tense relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran has been at the center of many of the major political shifts that have occurred in the Middle East since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003. The study documents how relations between the two powers have unfolded in the Persian Gulf, Iraq, Lebanon, and Palestine from 2003 through January 2009.

[ARTICLE 246](#)

Is It Time to Rethink U.S. Entry and Exit Processes? by C. Richard Neu. *RAND Corporation*. March 2009.

Managing the entry and exit of individual travelers at U.S. borders is an important aspect of border and homeland security. The paper outlines a number of questions regarding current entry and exit policies and procedures, the answers to which may lead to helpful modifications.

[ARTICLE 247](#)

Energy

Research Priorities for Fossil Fuels by James T. Bartis. Testimonies, *RAND Corp*. March 2009.

Full text of testimony presented before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The author states that U.S. energy policy needs to focus on developing greenhouse gas reduction technology.

[ARTICLE 247](#)

Biochar: Examination of an Emerging Concept to Mitigate Climate Change by Kelsi S. Bracmont. *Congressional Research Service (CRS), Library of Congress*. February 3, 2009.

Biochar is a charcoal produced under high temperatures using crop residues, animal manure, or any type of organic waste material. The combined production and use of biochar is considered a carbon-negative process, meaning that carbon is removed from the atmosphere and will not be released into the atmosphere at a later time.

[ARTICLE 248](#)

International Status and Prospects of Nuclear Power. *International Atomic Energy Agency*. February 27, 2009.

The report describes the growing interest in nuclear power around the world, current projections about its future, new technological developments and the challenges faced in different countries. Projections ranged from a 27% increase in nuclear power by 2030 to a 100% increase.

[ARTICLE 249](#)

'Ice that Burns' May Yield Clean, Sustainable Bridge to Global Energy Future. *Geology Times*. Mar. 2009.

In the future, natural gas derived from chunks of ice that workers collect from beneath the ocean floor and beneath the arctic permafrost may fuel cars, heat homes, and power factories.

[ARTICLE 250](#)

Life After the Oil Bust. Knowledge@Wharton, *Wharton University of Pennsylvania*. March 11, 2009.

Time was when oil was \$140 a barrel, and while consumers cringed at the prices, the oil-rich nations of the Middle East prospered. The result was an economic boom that spanned industries ranging from financial services and real estate to tourism. The report explores how businesses in the region are coping with this reality.

[ARTICLE 251](#)

OPEC Oil Export Revenues. *Energy Information Administration*. March 2009.

Based on projections from the report, members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could earn \$383 billion of net oil export revenues in 2009 and \$503 billion in 2010. Last year, OPEC earned \$970

billion in net oil export revenues, a 42 percent increase from 2007. On a per-capita basis, OPEC net oil export earnings reached \$2,686 in 2008, a 40 percent increase from 2007. [**ARTICLE 252**](#)

Clean Coal. *U.S. Government Accountability Office.* Web posted March 11, 2009.

Coal-fired power plants generate about one-half of the nation's electricity and about one-third of its carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, which contribute to climate change. In 2003, the Department of Energy (DOE) initiated FutureGen, a commercial-scale, coal-fired power plant to incorporate integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC), an advanced generating technology, with carbon capture and storage (CCS). U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommends that DOE re-examine its restructuring decision, based on the comparative costs, benefits, and risks of the original and restructured programs. [**ARTICLE 253**](#)

"Oil for Food" When Oil is Down (and the ruble is weak) by Leon Aron. *American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research.* March 17, 2009.

Although it contains millions of acres of some of the world's most fertile soil and has implemented the world's largest land privatization reform, Russia imports food in amounts that are inordinately high for a country of its size and per-capita GDP. Already under strain from rampant inflation, a very significant proportion of Russia's population will find its access to food further diminished by deep depreciation of the ruble as well as such inevitable consequences of the crisis as unemployment and still higher inflation. [**ARTICLE 254**](#)

25 Cities with the Most Energy Star Qualified Buildings in 2008. *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.* Web posted March 5, 2009.

The report presents a list of U.S. metropolitan areas with the largest number of energy efficient buildings in 2008 that have earned EPA's Energy Star. The list is headed by Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, Washington, D.C., Dallas-Fort Worth, Chicago, Denver, Minneapolis-St Paul, Atlanta and Seattle. [**ARTICLE 255**](#)

Environment

"Climate Literacy" the Essential Principles of Climate Science. *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.* March 2009.

The guide is to help individuals of all ages understand how climate influences them and how they influence climate. "This guide is a first step for people who want to know more about the essential principles of our climate system, how to better discern scientifically credible information about climate, and how to identify problems related to understanding climate and climate change." [**ARTICLE 256**](#)

Hungry Oceans: What Happens When their Prey is Gone? by Margot L. Stiles et al. *Oceana.* March 5, 2009.

Scientists are finding evidence of widespread malnutrition in commercial and recreational fish, marine mammals, and seabirds because of the global depletion of the small fish they need to survive, according to the report. These "prey fish" underpin marine food webs and are being steadily exhausted by heavy fishing, increasing demand for aquaculture feed, and climate change. Changing ocean temperatures and currents caused by climate change also make prey fish populations more vulnerable. [**ARTICLE 257**](#)

The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2008. Food and Agriculture Organization, *UN.* March 2009.

The fishing industry and national fisheries authorities must do more to understand and prepare for the impacts that climate change will have on world fisheries, says the report. According to the report, existing responsible fishing practices need to be more widely implemented and current management plans should be expanded to include strategies for coping with climate change. [**ARTICLE 258**](#)

Green Jobs: a Pathway to a Strong Middle Class. *Middle Class Task Force,* V.P. of the U.S. March 4, 2009.

The White House Task Force on the Middle Class has a simple mandate: to find, highlight, and implement solutions to the economic challenges facing the American middle class. The Obama Administration is committed to reforming how we create and consume energy in America. One part of that agenda is to promote the creation of green jobs. [**ARTICLE 259**](#)

The Climate Change Lobby Explosion. *Center for Public Integrity.* February 24, 2009.

The number of lobbyists seeking to influence federal policy on climate change has grown more than 300% in 5 years, with a slew of new interests from Main Street to Wall Street adding to the challenge of addressing global warming, according to the report. The report provides a look at the universe of special interests shaping debate in the U.S. and how it has expanded between 2003 and 2008. [ARTICLE 260](#)

A Rising Tide of Ocean Debris. *Ocean Conservancy.* March 10, 2009.

The report features the Marine Debris Index; the world's only country-by-country, state-by-state analysis of trash in our oceans and waterways. Trash was collected and data recorded by nearly 400,000 volunteers around the world who combed local beaches and waterways during the 23rd International Coastal Cleanup. Volunteers removed nearly seven million (6.8 million) pounds of debris, from 6,485 sites in 104 countries and 42 U.S. states and the District of Columbia with a common mission of improving the health of the ocean. [ARTICLE 261](#)

Contaminated Coal Waste. *Natural Resources Defense Council.* March 12, 2009.

Proposed coal plants across the United States would produce nearly 18 million tons of dangerous waste, including toxic metals, each year, says the report. Nearly 130 million tons of coal waste from existing plants is being produced annually, most of which is disposed of in largely unregulated landfills, ponds and other locations, posing serious public health and environmental risks. The 15 states that would be the biggest polluters have proposals for 54 coal plants and would create nearly 14 million tons of dangerous waste. [ARTICLE 262](#)

Informing Decisions in a Changing Climate. *National Research Council.* March 2009.

Many state and local officials and private organizations are basing decisions, such as how to build bridges or manage water supplies, on the assumption that current climate conditions will continue, but that assumption is no longer valid, according to the report. The report recommends six principles that all agencies should follow in supporting decision makers who are facing the effects of climate change. [ARTICLE 263](#)

Integrating U.S. Climate, Energy, and Transportation Policies: Proceedings of Three Workshops by Liisa Ecola et al. *RAND Corporation.* March 2009.

The three workshops brought together representatives of government, industry, advocacy groups, and the research community who hold different perspectives on what the goals of climate change mitigation policy should be and which strategies should be implemented to achieve them. The report organizes the key themes of the workshops by topic, in particular, pointing out areas of agreement as well as disagreement. [ARTICLE 264](#)

On the Politics of Sustainability a Long Way Ahead by Timothy O'Riordan. *Environment.* March/April 2009

We as humans love to forecast, but we seldom get our predictions right. Even when we feel we have explored all possible scenarios, some events still surprise us. Yet we still do not really know whether we are creating conditions for a malleable, adaptive society with governing arrangements that promote ecological resilience, social justice, human well-being, and security, or whether we are inadvertently promoting and fractious society whose constituents will fight among themselves, some surviving at the expense of the others. [ARTICLE 265](#)

U.S. Solar Industry Year in Review 2008. *Solar Energy Industries Association.* March 2009.

The review highlights a third year of record growth. It notes that 1,265 megawatts (MW) of solar power of all types were installed in 2008, bringing total U.S. solar power capacity up 17 percent to 8,775 MW. The 2008 figure included 342 MW of solar photovoltaic (PV), 139 MWth, thermal equivalent, of solar water heating, 762 MWth of pool heating and an estimated 21 MW of solar space heating and cooling. [ARTICLE 266](#)

Who Pays for Climate Policy? New Estimates of the Household Burden and Economic Impact of a U.S. Cap-and-Trade System by Andrew Chamberlain. *Tax Foundation.* March 2009.

With climate change legislation becoming a top congressional priority in recent months, the study shows that a cap-and-trade system curbing greenhouse gas emissions would place an annual burden of \$144.8 billion on U.S. households. The average annual household burden would be \$1,218, about 2% of the average household income. That this burden would be disproportionately borne by low-income households, those under age 25 and over 75 years, those in southern states, and single parents with dependent children. [ARTICLE 267](#)

Industries Storm States Over Climate Change by Tyler Evilsizer. *National Institute on Money in State Politics.* March 18, 2009.

Those with a keen interest in the climate change debate have turned up the pressure to make sure their voices are heard in the lawmaking process. Between 2003 and 2007, energy-related companies contributed \$151 million to state-level politics; chambers of commerce, manufacturers and pro-business organizations gave an additional \$31.4 million. In contrast, environmental organizations and alternative energy companies contributed only \$26 million.

ARTICLE 268

International Women's Day

The Situation of Female Membership of Governments by 2009. Worldwide Guide to Women in Leadership. 2009.

The report shows country by country analysis of women in political leadership roles.

ARTICLE 269

Women are the Emerging Power of the 21ST Century by Swanee Hunt. *Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty*. March 9, 2009.

Some 800 guests assembled in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia on the coast of West Africa, for the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security. Most of the leaders present hailed from Africa, although a sizable number were Europeans and Americans.

ARTICLE 270

Pakistan/India: Women Beat Unorthodox Paths to Peace. *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*. January 2009.

As high-profile delegations participate in the month-long cross-border signature campaign to press for resumption of dialogue between the two countries and call for peace, three Pakistani women who are pushing the agenda are interviewed.

ARTICLE 271

Milestones in U.S. Women's History. *International Information Program*, U.S. Dept. of State. February 2009.

The article covers people and events that moved women's rights forward.

Smithsonian Institution: Women's History Month. *Smithsonian Institution*. March 6, 2009.

The web page has links to interviews and articles about women ranging in the fields from writing, biology, popular music to espionage.

Ten Phenomenal Woman Named as Inductees *National Women's Hall of Fame*. March 2, 2009.

Included in the ten are Louise Bourgeois, Mildred Cohn, Karen DeCrow, among others, and biographies.

Women's History Month: March 2009. Facts for Features, U.S. Bureau of Census. January 2009.

Starting with the number of females, 154.7 million, as of October 1, 2008, the report shows earnings, education, and other topics related to women.

Arts & Culture

Artists in a Year of Recession: Impact on Jobs in 2008. *National Endowment for the Arts*. March 2009.

Unemployment rates are up among working artists and the artist workforce has contracted, according to the research. It examines how the economic slowdown has affected the nation's working artists. The study looks at artist employment patterns during two spikes in the current recession.

ARTICLE 272

Problems Persist, but Arts Advocates See Progress Under Obama by Robin Pogrebin. *New York Times*. March 24, 2009

Washington continues to be consumed by economic turmoil, but cultural professionals say they are cautiously optimistic about the future of the arts under President Obama.

ARTICLE 273

Access to Arts Education. *U.S. Government Accountability Office*. February 2009.

According to data from Education's national survey, most elementary school teachers, about 90 percent, reported that instruction time for arts education stayed the same between school years 2004-2005 and 2006-2007. While basic state requirements for arts education in schools have remained unchanged in most states, state funding levels for arts education increased in some states and decreased in others, according to GAO's survey of state arts officials.

ARTICLE 274

Education

Hispanics Become More Prevalent on College Campuses. *U.S. Bureau of Census.* March 4, 2009.

Hispanic students comprised 12 percent of full-time college students, both undergraduate and graduate students, in 2007, up from 10 percent in 2006, according to U.S. Census Bureau tables. Hispanics comprise 15 percent of the nation's total population. [ARTICLE 275](#)

School Enrollment in the United States: 2007

Mini-Digest of Education Statistics 2008. *National Center for Education Statistics.* March 2009.

The publication is a pocket-sized compilation of statistical information covering the broad field of American education from kindergarten through graduate school. The statistical highlights are excerpts from the Digest of Education of Statistics, 2008. [ARTICLE 276](#)

We Don't Need No Education? Why the United States Should Take the Lead in Education by Desmond Bermingham. *Center for Global Development.* March 2, 2009.

The author, the former head of the Education for All-Fast Track Initiative (FTI), argues that the United States has a tremendous opportunity to lead the international effort to provide a decent education to all young people. While the FTI has laid down a good mechanism for global coordination in the education sector, it still faces many hurdles. [ARTICLE 277](#)

Beyond the Bubble: Technology and the Future of Student Assessment by Bill Tucker. *Education Sector.* February 2009.

Since the IBM Type 805 test scoring machine first hit the market in 1938, fill-in-the-bubble test score sheets and scanners have remained the dominant technologies used in student assessments. They rely heavily on multiple-choice question types and measure only a portion of the skills and knowledge outlined in state educational standards, and do not align well with what we know about how students learn. [ARTICLE 278](#)

Every student Counts: the Role of Federal Policy in Improving Graduate Rate Accountability by Eric Richmond. *Alliance for Excellent Education.* March 2009.

The brief describes how federal policy has progressed from early attempts to simply calculate an agreed-upon high school graduation rate to present-day efforts aimed at using commonly defined rates as part of a refined accountability system to drive school improvement. [ARTICLE 279](#)

American Society

One in 31: the Long Reach of American Corrections. *Pew Center on the States.* March 2009.

Explosive growth in the number of people on probation or parole has propelled the population of the U.S. corrections system to more than 7.3 million, or 1 in every 31 U.S. adults, according to the report. The vast majority of these offenders live in the community, yet new data in the report finds that nearly 90 percent of state corrections dollars are spent on prisons. [ARTICLE 280](#)

Putting U.S. Cars on the High Road to Recovery by Susan Helper. *Brookings Instit.* March 2009.

The author, Helper, says putting the U.S. auto industry on the high road to recovery will require more than a quick financial fix. It will require sustained cooperation between government and the industry around fundamental issues: what kinds of cars are made and how they are made. [ARTICLE 281](#)

2009 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report. U.S. Department of State. February 2009.

The report is prepared for U.S. Congress in accordance with the Foreign Assistance Act. It describes the efforts of key countries to attack all aspects of the international drug trade in Calendar Year 2008. Volume I covers drug and chemical control activities. Volume II covers money laundering and financial crimes. [ARTICLE 282](#)

[Vol. I: Drug and Chemical Control](#)

[Vol. II: Money Laundering and Financial Crimes](#)

Stabilization Effects of Social Spending: Empirical Evidence from a Panel of OECD Countries. By Davide Furceri. *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)*. February 2009.

The aim of the paper is to assess the ability of social spending to smooth output shocks and to provide stabilization. The results show that overall social spending is able to smooth about 16 percent of a shock to GDP. The stabilization effects of social spending are significantly larger in those countries where the size of social spending is higher, according to the paper.

[**ARTICLE 283**](#)

International Comparisons of Manufacturing Productivity and Unit Labor Trends 2007. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. March 3, 2009.

Manufacturing labor productivity increased in 2007 in 14 of the 17 economies compared by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Republic of Korea and Taiwan had the largest productivity increases of 8.7 percent each. The United States productivity increase of 4.7 percent was the fourth largest. Singapore had the steepest decline of the three economies where productivity declined.

[**ARTICLE 284**](#)

Perpetual Other-Race Training Reduces Implicit Racial Bias. *PLoS One*. 2009.

The report contends that implicit racial bias denotes socio-cognitive attitudes towards other-race groups that are exempt from conscious awareness. In parallel, other-race faces are more difficult to differentiate relative to own-race faces, the "Other-Race Effect." To examine the relationship between these two biases the authors trained Caucasian subjects to better individuate other-race faces and measured implicit racial bias for those faces both before and after training. The report demonstrates that training that ameliorates the perceptual Other-Race Effect also reduces socio-cognitive implicit racial bias.

[**ARTICLE 285**](#)

Does the Doctor Need a Boss? by Arnold Kling and Michael F. Cannon. *Cato Institute*. Feb. 2009.

The traditional model of medical delivery, in which the doctor is trained, respected, and compensated as an independent craftsman, is anachronistic, according to the report. At least two forces stand in the way of robust competition from corporate health care providers. First is the regime of third-party fee-for-service payment, which is heavily entrenched by Medicare, Medicaid, and the regulatory and tax distortions that tilt private health insurance in the same direction. Second, state licensing regulations make it difficult for corporations to design optimal work flows for health care delivery.

[**ARTICLE 286**](#)

The Effects of Population Structure on Employment and Productivity by Herve Boulho. *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development*. March 17, 2009.

The paper assesses the quantitative importance of the working-age population broken down by age, gender and education in explaining differences in employment and productivity levels across countries.

[**ARTICLE 287**](#)

End-of-Life Care: Services, Costs, Ethics, and Quality of Care by Kirsten J. Costello et al. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress*. February 23, 2009.

End-of-life care can be defined as health care provided to persons who are very ill, have a prognosis that is likely to worsen, and most likely will die in the near term from their illness. The report is divided into six sections that address (1) demographic and historical changes affecting death and dying in the U.S.; (2) definitions of end-of-life, palliative, and hospice care; (3) costs associated with end-of-life care; (4) end-of-life care laws and ethics; (5) quality of care at the end of life; and (6) policy issues that would modify or expand the federal government's role in addressing end-of-life care.

[**ARTICLE 288**](#)

UN-backed 2009 summit on world food crisis gains support. *UN News Centre*. March 23, 2009

A proposed 2009 world summit on the food crisis, which continues in poor countries despite falling commodity prices, is rapidly gaining backing and growing in relevance, the United Nations agricultural agency said today.

[**ARTICLE 289**](#)

Leviathan's Drug Problem: Federal Monopoly of Pharmaceutical Regulation and its Deadly Cost by John R. Graham. *Pacific Research Institute*. March 2009.

The research report reviews three decades of the Food and Drug Administration's performance and concludes that the agency is overfunded, overstaffed, and denies hundreds of thousands of Americans timely access to new medicines.

[**ARTICLE 290**](#)

Media & Telecommunications

Many Would Shrug if Their Local Newspaper Closed by Andrew Kohut and Michael Remez. *Pew Research Center for the People & the Press*. March 12, 2009.

As many newspapers struggle to stay economically viable, fewer than half of Americans (43%) say that losing their local newspaper would hurt civic life in their community “a lot.” Even fewer (33%) say they would personally miss reading the local newspaper a lot if it were no longer available. **ARTICLE 291**

Rural Broadband at a Glance. *U.S. Department of Agriculture*. March 2009.

75% of U.S. residents used the Internet to access information, education, and services in 2007. Though rural residents enjoy widespread access to the Internet, they are less likely to have high-speed access than their urban counterparts. Circumstantial evidence suggests that the difference in access may lie in the higher cost and limited availability of broadband Internet in rural areas. **ARTICLE 292**

State of the News Media. *Pew Project for excellence in Journalism*. March 2009.

The study provides both aggregated and original research on the eight major sectors of media: newspapers, online, network, cable, and local TV, magazines, radio and ethnic. It also includes special reports on the Year in the News, lessons from the 2008 election, an analysis of citizen media sites and more. **ARTICLE 293**

Goodbye to the Age of Newspapers (hello to a new era of corruption) by Paul Starr. *New Republic*. March 2009

We take newspapers for granted. They have been so integral a part of daily life in America, so central to politics and culture and business, and so powerful and profitable in their own right, that it is easy to forget what a remarkable historical invention they are. **ARTICLE 294**

Film Piracy, Organized Crime, and Terrorism by Gregory F. Terverton et al. *RAND Corporation*. March 2009.

The report presents the findings of research into the involvement of organized crime and terrorist groups in counterfeiting products. It presents detailed case studies from around the globe in one area of counterfeiting, film piracy, to illustrate the broader problem of criminal, and perhaps terrorist, groups finding a new and not-much-discussed way of funding their activities. **ARTICLE 295**

Research, Science, & Technology

Removing Barriers to Responsible Scientific Research Involving Human Stem Cells. *Executive Order, The White House*. March 9, 2009.

The purpose of the order is to remove limitations on scientific inquiry, to expand National Institute of Health support for the exploration of human stem cell research, and in so doing to enhance the contribution of America's scientists to important new discoveries and new therapies for the benefit of humankind. **ARTICLE 296**

Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: The Role of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Hearing before a subcomm. of the U.S. House Comm. on Sci. & Tech. March 10, 2009.

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